SI. No.	Name of Industry	Amount (in crores)
9.	Sugar	254.51
10.	Chemicals	3061.39
11.	Metals & Metal Products	1247.14
12.	Vegetable Oil	468.33
13.	Tobacco	29.53
14.	Leather	192.50
15.	Gems & Jewellery	66.07
16.	Food & Food Products	909.90
17.	Vehicles, etc.	1346.11
18.	Miscellaneous	878.74
	TOTAL :	29,109.89

Merger of private and co-operative sector banks

†*362. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to merge the banks in the private sector and co-operative sector with the public sector banks; and

(b) if so, the number of employees likely to be absorbed in other banks and the number of the branches in remote and rural areas likely to be shut down as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken by the Government and, hence, part (b) of the question does not arise. Government and Reserve Bank of India will, however, consider specific proposals for consolidation from banks as emanating from the management of the banks themselves.

Airports on international map

*363. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports proposed to be added to the international map by linking air services directly to the places abroad in the near future; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the steps proposed to be taken up to decongest the traffic in existing international air terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Presently 14 airports in the country are designated as international airports. In order to promote international connectivity out of points in India, bilateral rights are being exchanged liberally with foreign countries. As far as the Indian carriers are concerned, they are free to operate from any airport in India. However, actual operations are left to the commercial judgement of the airlines and traffic demand.

(b) Upgradation/renovation/expansion and consequent decongestion is a continuous process linked with traffic growth. Government is taking several measures to reduce congestion both on airside and terminals. These include construction of taxi tracks, parking bays/stands on airside. Similarly domestic terminal capacity at Delhi and Mumbai airports are being expanded. International terminals at Delhi and Mumbai are being renovated. Steps are also being undertaken to introduce Common User Terminal Equipment, in-line baggage screening etc. at several airports for quick facilitation of passengers. Air traffic management systems are also being reviewed to increase aircraft movement.

Fixation of oil prices

†*364. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering to restore the right to fix domestic retail prices of petrol and diesel to the oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Since the end of 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility. The Indian basket of crude oil touched an all-time high of US $ 52.83 per bbl on 04-04-2005 compared to an average price of US $ 27.96 per bbl in 2003-04 and US $ 39.21 per bbl in 2004-05. There has since been some

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.